

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# CHILD AND ADULT CARE

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING  
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

*Food Program*

## February 2024 Monthly Newsletter



### Register for MegaCon 2024

Registration has begun for MEGACON - TDA's annual comprehensive training event for federal nutrition programs! Registration has already topped 450 people. A hotel room block is available for our attendees. Join in this fun and educational event May 14-16 in Austin. **Don't be late - register TODAY!**

**Visit [SquareMeals.org](https://squaremeals.org) for more information.**

## Welcome to Your CACFP Newsletter

The monthly CACFP newsletter consolidates the latest updates for program operators. Each newsletter provides the most recent CACFP policy news, training opportunities, and more. Our goal is to empower you as you navigate the CACFP landscape.

Additional updates are available from the National CACFP Sponsors Association. **Read more in this blog.**



# It's Almost Here! National CACFP Week

Get ready for National CACFP Week 2024, May 10-16! Take time this month to explore our digital materials and get inspiration for celebration week plans! Spread awareness with our Social Media Assistance Packets, involve parents with our Parent Postcard, and more! Visit [SquareMeals](#) today and don't forget to tell us about your celebration plans by taking [this survey](#)!

## **RELEASE: SFSP and SSO Rural Non-Congregate Service Regulations**

USDA issued an Interim Final Rule at the end of December outlining the new regulations allowing SFSP and SSO operators in rural areas to provide non-congregate meal service to participants. Stay tuned to the newsletters and [SquareMeals.org](#) for more information on how to apply!

## **RELEASE: NEW Duplicative Services FAQs**

TDA has released a set of FAQs related to duplicative costs. A duplicative cost is an unallowable expense that results from a CE paying for the same service under multiple contracts using federal funding.

## **Action Required: Sponsors at Unaffiliated At-Risk Sites**

Beginning February 16 and no later than June 30, all sponsors of unaffiliated At-Risk Sites are required to submit a questionnaire/attestation form confirming that they are conducting all required oversight functions at their unaffiliated sites and that those sites are responsible for the oversight of a complete afterschool enrichment program.

## **Unanticipated School Closure Notification Forms and Guidance**

If a school closes due to an unanticipated event and wants to serve students during the closure, the school district must choose an appropriate Program to operate (SFSP, SSO, or CACFP At-Risk) and notify TDA via the newly released Unanticipated School Closure Notification Form.

## **Reminder for TX-UNPS and WBSCM Entities**

Contracting entities can now assign two User Access Managers/User Admins (UAM/UA) to manage security in TX-UNPS/WBSCM systems.



## **VCA Management Plan Reminder**

There has been an important update regarding the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Management Plan. The SFSP Management Plan is now integrated into the TXUNPS platform.

### **Who Needs to Complete the Management**

**Plan?** Completion of the SFSP Management Plan is a requirement.

**Accessing the SFSP Management Plan:** To access and complete the SFSP Management Plan, please log in to the **TXUNPS platform**. Detailed instructions and resources are available in TXUNPS.

## **Food Allergies: New Online Resources**

FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education) has released an improved Food Allergy Academy. Explore instructor-led classes, self-guided courses, and live webinars covering a variety of food allergy topics! Be ready to feed your participants safely. **[Visit here for more information](#)**.

## **New Features and Food Yields in the Food Buying Guide Web-Based Tool**

The Food Buying Guide has been updated with new foods and features, including an interactive flow chart on using the preparation yield and an ounces-to-pounds calculator.

## **New! Breakfast and Snack Menu Planners**

Team Nutrition released a comprehensive menu planner guide to support CACFP providers in meeting meal pattern requirements and serving high-quality breakfast meals and snacks! Planners include sample menus, activities, checklists, and kid-tested and approved recipes! Menu planners are found on SquareMeals **[here](#)**, available in English and Spanish!

## **Reach Out to ESC, ICN for Training**

Staying well-informed and up-to-date is essential to operating CACFP. We encourage Contracting Entities (CEs) to access self-paced trainings and webinars from partners at the Institute of Child Nutrition and regional Education Service Centers. These resources can enhance your administration of CACFP. Click the headline for more information.

## ICN Wants to Hear from You

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) wants you to join their task force to identify and bridge gaps in their training resources. Starting in March, attend a series of four virtual meetings with other child nutrition professionals where you'll share your thoughts with ICN staff! **[Complete the interest form here.](#)**

## **CACFP Training on SquareMeals.org**

CACFP Training on squaremeals.org has been updated. There are course options from TDA, links to ESC LIVE, and courses offered by The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN). Visit **<https://squaremeals.org/FandN-Resources/Training/CACFP-Training>** for details.



## Contact Information

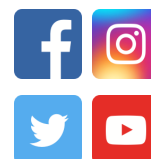
Email contacts for technical assistance -

- Child and Adult Care Food Program:  
[CACFP.BOps@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:CACFP.BOps@TexasAgriculture.gov)
- National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Seamless Summer Option, Special Milk Program, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: [NSLP-SBP.BOps@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:NSLP-SBP.BOps@TexasAgriculture.gov)
- Summer Food Service Program:  
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